



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 09/834,438 Confirmation No. 2953
Applicant(s): Paul G. Alchas, et al.
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Examiner: Loan H. Thanh

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Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO JANUARY 05, 2004 NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants submit this response to a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed on January 05, 2004 (the "Notice"). A response to the Notice is due no later than February 05, 2004. Thus, this response is being timely filed.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 16 of this paper.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ARLINGTON, VA 22313-1450	
ON:	February 2, 2004
BY:	Sue Sabiel
<i>Sue Sabiel</i> (SIGNATURE)	2/2/04 (DATE)